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THEDWASTRE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

WEST SUFFOLK.

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year

1945.

ROBERT H. CLAYTON, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District
of Thedwastre in the County of West Suffolk for the year
ending 31st December, 1945.

Public Health Offices,
8, Whiting Street,
Bury St. Edmund's.

October, 1946.

To:-

The Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Thedwastre.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit for your favourable
consideration my tenth Annual Report as Medical Officer
of Health, being for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

I wish to acknowledge with sincere thanks the
help and consideration given to me by my colleagues and
all members of the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT H. CLAYTON,

M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

- (a) Medical - One part-time Medical Officer of Health,
Robert H. Clayton, M.B., B.S., B.Hy.,
D.P.H. (Durham), Cert. Mental Deficiency
and Allied Subjects (London), appointed in 1936.

This Officer does not engage in private practice but
holds in addition the following appointments:- Medical
Officer of Health, Newmarket U.D.C., Cosford R.D.C.,
Thingoe R.D.C., and Mildenhall R.D.C. Prior to
October 1st, 1945, this Officer also acted as Assistant
Medical Officer of Health, West Suffolk County Council,
Venereal Diseases Officer, West Suffolk, County Civil
Defence Ambulance Officer, West Suffolk, but from that
date his services were reserved for the five District
Councils, and subsequently separate office accommodation
was provided.

- (b) Others - One Sanitary Inspector, Oswald J. Wyatt, M.S.I.A.,
A.R.San.I., Meat Cert.R.S.I., appointed June 2nd, 1930,
also Building Surveyor, Housing Manager and Petroleum and
Explosives Officer.

One additional Sanitary Inspector, Trevor David,
M.S.I.A., Meat Cert. R.S.I., appointed September 1st, 1945.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS. Area 34,126 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population mid-year 1945	8,150
Number of inhabited houses at end of year according to Rate Book	2,548
Rateable Value	£26,777
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£111

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	132	71	61
Illegitimate	26	7	19
<u>Stillbirths.</u>			
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

During the year 11 deaths of infants under 1 year occurred, (5 males, 3 females legitimate, 1 male, 2 females illegitimate). No death from Maternal Causes (Headings 29 and 30) 21 deaths from Cancer, no deaths from Measles or Whooping Cough, or from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) were recorded.

On page 3 is a table giving some statistics for the decade from 1936 to 1945. From this table have been prepared the decade average figures given below which allow comparison with this period and the year 1945. Trends from 1936 to 1945 which may be noted are:-

Rateable Value increased	£4,187	= Increase of £185 per thousand pounds.
Penny Rate Product	£ 13	= " " £133 " " "
Inhabited Houses	164	= " " 69 " " houses.
Population	436	= " " 57 " " persons.
Average number of persons per house in 1945 remains as in 1936, at 3.2 persons per house.		

	<u>Thedwastre.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>
	<u>Decade</u> <u>Average.</u>	<u>1945.</u>
<u>Birth Rate.</u>	15.6	19.4
<u>Rate of Illegitimate births per 1000 legitimate births.</u>	76	197
<u>Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live & stillbirths).</u>	36.2	24.7
<u>Death Rate per 1000 resident population.</u>	13.3	15.3
<u>Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.</u>		11.4
<u>All Infants per 1000 live births.</u>	43.7	69.6
<u>Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate births.</u>	41.2	60.6
<u>Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births.</u>	76.1	115.4

The table on page 4 allows some comparisons between Thedwastre and the other four West Suffolk Districts of which I am Medical Officer of Health, in 1945 and also for the decade 1936 to 1945.

	Rateable Value.	Penny Rate Product.	No. of inhabited houses.	Registrar-General's Estimate Population.	Total Deaths.	Deaths under one year.		Births.		Stillbirths.	
						Legit-imate.	Illegit-imate.	Legit-imate.	Illegit-imate.	Legit-imate.	Illegit-imate.
1936.	£22,590	£98	2,384	7,714	103	7	Nil	99	5	3	Nil
1937.	£23,296	£98	2,418	8,040	102	2	Nil	100	5	6	Nil
1938.	£23,783	£99	2,447	7,691	79	3	Nil	112	2	6	Nil
1939.	£24,751	£103	2,409	7,724	101	7	Nil	101	6	4	1
1940.	£25,141	£103	2,551	8,851	132	3	Nil	110	4	7	Nil
1941.	£25,019	£105	2,543	9,525	113	8	Nil	125	6	6	Nil
1942.	£25,003	£104	2,544	9,052	119	4	1	146	6	7	Nil
1943.	£26,781	£111	2,539	8,713	130	4	1	133	11	2	Nil
1944.	£26,723	£111	2,545	8,342	105	4	2	155	21	3	Nil
1945.	£26,777	£111	2,548	8,150	125	8	3	132	26	3	1
TOTALS FOR DECADE.	-	-	-	-	1,109	50	7	1,213	92	47	2
ANNUAL AVERAGE DURING DECADE.	£24,986	£104	2,493	8,380	111	5	0.7	121	9	4.7	0.2

	Thedwastre R.D.		Cosford R.D.		Thingoe R.D.		Mildenhall R.D.		Newmarket U.D.	
	1945.	Decade	1945.	Decade	1945	Decade	1945	Decade	1945.	Decade
The Decade referred to is 1936 to 1945.										
Rateable Value per head of population.	£ 3.29	-	£ 2.94	-	£ 3.34	-	£ 4.01	-	£ 8.53	-
Acres per head of population.	4.2	-	5.4	-	6.7	-	6.7	-	0.7	-
Average Number of Persons per house.	3.2	-	2.9	-	3.3	-	3.6	-	3.0	-
Birth Rate.	19.4	15.6	18.4	15.1	18.4	16.4	20.3	17.4	15.5	13.3
Rate of Illegitimate births per 1000 legitimate births.	197	76	169	54	196	89	159	57	159	70
Stillbirth Rate per 1000 total (live & stillbirths)	24.7	36.2	5.6	27.9	20.1	29.8	15.0	28.0	22.4	28.1
Death Rate per 1000 resident population.	15.3	13.3	14.0	14.7	11.6	12.9	12.6	12.2	12.2	13.3
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year.										
All infants per 1000 live births.	69.6	43.7	24.1	33.0	27.3	37.1	34.2	40.9	22.9	41.4
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate births.	60.6	41.2	14.1	33.3	20.4	35.9	39.6	42.8	26.5	39.9
Illegitimate " " illegitimate births.	115.4	76.1	27.4	62.5	62.5	50.7	Nil	8.3	Nil	63.3



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Below is a table giving the causes and the number of deaths in 1945 occurring at the various age groups. The totals correspond with the Registrar-General's figures.

CAUSES OF DEATHS.		Deaths at the Sub-joined ages of "RESIDENTS" whether occurring in or beyond District.															
Heading	M = Male F = Female	Under 1 year		1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25		25 and under 45		45 and under 65		65 and upwards		TOTAL = Registrar-General's figures.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
6.	Tuberculosis of Respira- tory System.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
9.	Influenza.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity & oesophagus (M) Uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
14.	Cancer of stomach & duodenum.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	3	1
15.	Cancer of Breast.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
16.	Cancer of all other sites.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	5	5	6	8
17.	Diabetes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	5	6	5
19.	Heart Disease.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	2	17	25	20	29	
21.	Bronchitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	3
22.	Pneumonia.	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	2
26.	Appendicitis.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
27.	Other digestive diseases.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1
28.	Nephritis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
32.	Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease.	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
34.	Road Traffic Accidents.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
35.	Other Violent Causes.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
36.	All other causes.	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	7	2	10	5
Males		6	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	2	-	9	-	42	-	62	-
Females		-	5	-	1	-	2	-	2	-	3	-	7	-	43	-	63

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge continued to provide these facilities throughout 1945. This Laboratory has an arrangement which in emergency allows specimens from our District to be examined at the West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. The ambulance facilities of West Suffolk were considered at a Conference attended by all Local Authorities and representatives of the British Red Cross Society. It was indicated that additional Red Cross Ambulances would be stationed in West Suffolk to provide for general ambulance cases, and that a larger measure of co-ordination, through the Red Cross Centre at Bury St. Edmunds, would ensure that these facilities proved adequate.

Since the suspension of Civil Defence, no suitable ambulance for the transport of Scabies cases had been available, consequently, unless patients were able to make their own transport arrangements treatment of such cases was suspended. At the Conference, referred to above, it was agreed to recommend that an ambulance for Scabies cases be purchased by the County Council and stationed at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, for the services of all the District Councils, using that centre for Scabies treatment.

Infectious Diseases cases are removed by the ambulance stationed at Stowmarket Isolation Hospital to which our cases are removed.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. The Local Nursing Associations carry out this work through their nurses, who are residing in our District at Hinderclay, Great Ashfield and Woolpit, whilst some parishes are served by nurses residing at Stanton and Bradfield St. George.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. } These continued as in
(e) HOSPITALS. } previous years.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.

(a) Proposed Comprehensive Scheme. Progress made to the end of 1945 in the proposed Comprehensive Water Scheme (Thedwastre and its neighbouring Rural District (Thingoe), described in my previous Annual Report) was that of the three bores, for which sanction has been obtained, one each at Risby, Ixworth and Rushbrooke, the bore at Risby was completed. This 300 feet bore, drawing water from chalk, was subjected to an eleven days' test, during which 38,100 gallons per hour was pumped continuously. The removal of some $15\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons thereby, lowered the 18 feet 9 inches resting level of the water by 48 feet. On ceasing pumping the water rose in the bore 27 feet in the first minute, 42 feet in three minutes, 45 feet in seven minutes, and in seventeen minutes was within 3 inches of the original resting level. The water obtained was bacteriologically and chemically examined and proved satisfactory as indicated by the following report of Messrs. Rideal, Rideal & Sciver, Chemical and Bacteriological Laboratory, 28, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.:—

Water from new bore at Risby.

Chemical Analysis (expressed in parts per 100,000)

Suspended Solids	nil
Dissolved Solids	42.60
Chloride (as Cl ₂)	2.2
Free Ammonia	0.0045
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.003
Nitrate (as N ₂)	0.50
Nitrite	nil
Oxygen Consumed from Permanganate (4 hrs at 80°F.)	0.0096 (N/80)
pH value	7.1
Temporary Hardness	21.81
Permanent Hardness	4.29

Physical Examination.

Clear, colourless, odourless.

Bacteriological Examination.

Bacteria per ml growing aerobically
on nutrient agar at 20°C. in 72 hrs 2

Bacteria per ml growing aerobically
on and rapidly liquefying nutrient
gelatine at 20°C. in 72 hrs less than 1

Bacteria per ml growing aerobically
on nutrient agar at 37.5°C. in 48 hrs .. 1

Coliform Organisms ... absent from 50 ml.

CONCLUSION.

This hard water is in a satisfactory chemical, physical and bacteriological condition and is suitable for drinking purposes.

(b) Existing public piped water supplies. Approximately a quarter of a mile of main at Gedding-which pipes water from Captain Walmsley's supply to the council houses there and a few private houses en route, (a total of 14 houses)- is the only existing public piped water supply in Thedwastre.

(c) Other sources of water. The majority of working class houses throughout the District are supplied with water from surface wells, with the exception of some of the council houses, where bores have been sunk and provided with a hand-pump.

These surface wells cannot be relied upon either for quality of water or yet for quantity.

(d) Shortage of water. Shortage of water was experienced so that during the whole year cartage of water was required at Woolpit.

15 samples of water were taken from sources other than the public piped supplies and the bacteriological reports were:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Suspicious.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Bores	2	2	-	-
Wells	13	2	3	8
Springs	-	-	-	-

Warning notices were issued where required.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. As reported in my 1944 Annual Report, the Council's Water and Sewerage Consultant was to carry out a Sewage Disposal Survey under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewage Act, 1944. So far, as a result of this Survey, six schemes are suggested which would allow the water-carriage system to be introduced into eight villages.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. On occasion in 1945 the state of streams and ditches was unsatisfactory at Walsham-le-Willows, Hesselst, Woolpit, Elmswell and Norton. The Council employed a man continuously during the year cleaning out ditches and streams.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. The working class houses in the District are almost entirely supplied with pail closets - very few privy vaults remain.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The need for a Refuse Removal Scheme was again raised in Council towards the end of the year. The Council decided to defer consideration until the new Council was elected in April 1946. My predecessor, Dr. S. C. Hounsfield, wrote of Public Cleansing in 1936 "This, like the provision of sewers is a dream of the future." There is reason to hope that these services, so wisely advocated by him, will become realities.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Mr. Wyatt has supplied the following tabular statement:-

	<u>Number of Inspections.</u>
Dwelling Houses, Routine Inspections.	2,737
Bacon Factory.	324
Butchers Premises.	50
Food Shops and Bakehouses.	76
Factories.	26
Shops.	12
Cowsheds.	49
Dairies.	49
Water Samples.	15
School Inspections.	16
Interviews.	29
Complaints.	6
Building Surveyor.	20
Council Houses.	1,408
Evacuation.	70
Miscellaneous.	160
Tents, vans and sheds.	7
	<u>5,054</u>

Classified list of Housing Defects and Nuisances
abated during the year.

Roofs repaired	10
Chimneys repaired.	3
Eavesgutters repaired.	1
Ceilings repaired.	4
Walls repaired.	7
Dampness.	12
Windows repaired.	5
Fireplaces repaired.	5
Floors repaired.	3
Closets repaired or renewed	3
Others	2
	<u>55</u>

In addition to the above, repairs were carried out to the Council Houses and those requisitioned under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

Factory Act. 26 inspections to factories were made arising out of which a notice for repairs to closet accommodation was issued in one case.

(iv) SHOPS AND OFFICES. 88 inspections relating to the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, were made. From these inspections, which pay regard to cleanliness and to the provision of suitable and sufficient heating, ventilation and sanitary accommodation, no action was required in any case.

(v) CAMPING SITES. No applications for licenses to occupy sites were made in 1945. There are three sites in use in the area, the number of persons concerned being approximately 20. Seven visits were made to these sites.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action necessary.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. Nil.

(viii) ERADICATION OF B.D BUGS. Nil.

(ix) RATS AND MICE. The Council have a Rat Catcher working under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This Officer's work entails the investigation of complaints from the public and dis-infestation of premises concerned, systematic routine inspections of food premises, refuse tips and other likely sources of infestation; follow-up of premises previously dis-infested and the routine survey of the whole area. The "block system", i.e. house to house treatment, rather than dealing with isolated complaints, has been followed. Only one major infestation, other than at Military Establishments, was discovered. The number of rats destroyed, bodies seen, was 1,518, the estimated kill being about 4,550. Yearly contracts have been offered to and accepted by the larger industrial concerns in the area.

(x) SCABIES. Although as previously noted lack of transport facilities restricted the treatment of Scabies to those able to provide their own transport arrangements, nevertheless, there were 24 cases treated during 1945.

4. SCHOOLS. 16 visits were made to schools in order to inspect the washing and sanitary accommodation. In no case was action required.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. (i) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1876
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2737
(ii) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	313

- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 1474
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:-
- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 132
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-
- (a) Proceedings under Sections, 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. Nil
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
- (a) By Owners Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
- (a) By Owners Nil
- (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
- (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil
- (2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil
- (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936. Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year. 17
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein. 22
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein. 119
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year. 17
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. Nil
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases. Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority having taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil

My previous Annual Report summarised Thedwastre's past housing activities and indicated the progress hoped for in the next twelve months. It is now possible to record how far the Council has achieved its twelve months' objectives and to recall difficulties experienced and now besetting the Council.

In 1945 the officials having completed the "Hobhouse Survey", the Housing Inspection Sub-Committee, also in that year, completed their inspections of all houses deemed at all possible of requiring consideration for categorisation in either Category Four (Requiring Reconditioning) or Category Five (Incapable of Repair). No less than 886 such houses (of which 77% were actually placed in Categories Four or Five) were inspected throughout the District by this Sub-Committee - a more willing and enthusiastic set of councillors with which to co-operate could not be imagined. The advantages which accrued from this survey cannot be fully indicated - only those members who so generously devoted their time and labours to carrying it out will thoroughly appreciate the mass of knowledge which they acquired - the statistical results of the complete survey of the whole District are indicated in Tables 1 and 2 which show that the percentage of houses placed in each of the various categories was:-

	<u>Category.</u>				
	<u>One.</u>	<u>Two.</u>	<u>Three.</u>	<u>Four.</u>	<u>Five.</u>
All houses in the District.	3%	48%	22%	11%	16%
Privately owned working class houses, i.e. excluding private residences, farms, public houses and council houses, etc.	2%	35%	25%	15%	23%
All houses other than privately owned working class houses.	7%	77%	14%	2%	Nil %

TABLE 1.

CATEGORY OF ALL HOUSES IN THEDWASTRE.

<u>Category:</u>	<u>One.</u>	<u>Two.</u>	<u>Three.</u>	<u>Four.</u>	<u>Five.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Badwell Ash	1	53	27	16	17	114
Beyton	14	49	16	10	20	109
Drinkstone	1	50	35	14	25	125
Elmswell	10	194	39	27	18	288
Felsham	1	51	27	2	8	89
Gedding	4	27	5	2	4	42
Great Ashfield	2	63	20	4	7	96
Hessett	Nil	29	7	21	31	88
Hinderclay	1	23	23	3	10	60
Hunston	3	8	6	6	5	28
Langham	9	17	3	7	3	39
Norton	10	99	39	23	37	208
Rattlesden	3	85	57	31	39	215
Rickingham	1	36	27	3	17	84
Stowlangtoft	3	17	24	2	5	51
Thurston	12	96	21	24	43	196
Tostock	4	41	19	9	17	90
Walsham-le-Willows	2	126	78	11	41	258
Wattisfield	1	39	39	13	21	113
Woolpit	1	112	35	55	33	236
Total	83	1,215	547	283	401	2,529
Percentage	3%	48%	22%	11%	16%	

TABLE 2.

CATEGORY OF PRIVATELY OWNED WORKING CLASS HOUSES IN THEDWASTRE.(Excluding Private Residences, Farms, Public Houses, and Council Houses, etc.)

<u>Category:</u>	<u>One.</u>	<u>Two.</u>	<u>Three.</u>	<u>Four.</u>	<u>Five.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Badwell Ash	Nil	20	24	16	17	77
Beyton	5	24	15	10	20	74
Drinkstone	1	26	30	13	25	95
Elmswell	2	86	29	26	18	161
Felsham	1	28	24	2	8	63
Gedding	2	12	3	2	4	23
Great Ashfield	Nil	32	17	Nil	7	56
Hessett	Nil	9	5	21	31	66
Hinderclay	Nil	8	18	3	10	39
Hunston	Nil	4	6	5	5	20
Langham	1	14	3	7	3	28
Norton	6	53	28	23	37	147
Rattlesden	2	44	34	28	39	147
Rickingham	Nil	21	21	3	16	61
Stowlangtoft	2	9	23	2	5	41
Thurston	6	51	17	23	43	140
Tostock	1	19	16	8	17	61
Walsham-le-Willows	Nil	64	59	10	40	173
Wattisfield	1	16	30	13	21	81
Woolpit	1	62	31	54	33	181
Total	31	602	433	269	399	1,734
Percentage	2%	35%	25%	15%	23%	

The Survey, categorising each house, having been completed the next step was for the officials to clarify in their own minds the housing requirements of each parish. The number of male adults, female adults and children under ten years of age for each house had been recorded. Local knowledge was sought from various sources, including postmistresses, tradesmen, clergymen and Women's Institutes, so that a clear picture for each parish emerged indicating the housing needs of persons living in lodgings, persons residing far from their work, persons about to marry, persons living in overcrowded conditions, persons living in slum conditions and of persons too old and settled to be uprooted from their worn out houses without hardship. The officials incorporated this information in notes on every house in the village, and prepared sketch maps identifying each house in each parish. They then thoroughly discussed this detailed information with the Councillor, or Councillors, for each parish prior to presenting the joint recommendations of the parish Representative and the officials, as to the housing needs of each parish, to the Full Council. Every Councillor made the utmost effort to sift the information presented to him and to add to it his own personal knowledge of his parish - in many cases the Councillor himself, armed with this information, undertook what was well nigh a house to house visit in his parish in order to ensure that no person's housing requirements were overlooked and that the recommendations advanced were as accurate as possible.

The housing requirements of the District were thus defined - not merely the immediate requirements but also as a separate figure the considered assessment of housing requirements for the next ten years after forecasting the possible industrial and agricultural development. Table 3 gives these figures - the Immediate Housing Requirements of the District are 476 dwellings (of which it is recommended that 77 should be bungalows suitable for old persons or childless couples), the Ten Year Programme suggested is 600 dwellings (of which it was recommended that 99 should be bungalows).

The number of new houses required immediately is equivalent to 19% of all the inhabited houses in the District or to 24% of the privately owned working class houses in the District, whilst the number of new houses required for the Ten Year Programme is equivalent to 27% of all the houses in the District or to 35% of the privately owned working class houses in the District.

TABLE 3.

<u>Housing Requirements.</u>			
	<u>Immediate.</u>		<u>Ten Year Programme.</u>
	<u>Council Houses.</u>	<u>Bungalows</u>	<u>Council Bungalows</u>
Badwell Ash	17	5	23
Beyton	20	2	20
Drinkstone	30	9	30
Elmswell	34	-	60
Felsham	12	-	18
Gedding	4	2	4
Great Ashfield	6	4	10
Hessett	22	6	32
Hinderclay	8 +	2	12
Hunston	4	2	4
Langham	3 ±	2	2
Norton	41	-	50
Rattlesden	34 ÷	12 ø	34
Rickingham	9	3	20
Stowlangtoft	8	-	8
Thurston	54	-	54
Tostock	22 X	-	18
Walsham-le-Willows	28	11	40
Wattisfield	13	4	20
Woolpit	30	13	42
Total	399	77	501
Grand Totals	476		600

+ One of these to be built at Wattisfield.
 ± " " " " " " " " Walsham-le-Willows.
 ÷ Three of these to be built at Elmswell.
 ø One " " " " " " " " Woolpit.
 X " " " " " " " " Thurston.
 X Three " " " " " " " " Elmswell.

The position then, had been assessed and the goal defined.

The Council's method of dealing with the position in order to proceed to their goal was to transform the Housing Inspection Sub-Committee into a Housing Committee whose functions include the provision of new houses in the District, the regulation of the authorisation of Civil Building Licenses and the general promotion of the repair of houses. In this way there was created a Housing Committee thoroughly conversant with the housing needs of the District, and with the urgency of such needs; a Committee well able to assess priority for rehousing and for repair work.

This Housing Committee has worked very hard and has been meticulous in arranging for the necessary consultation with, and advice from, the particular parish Councillor, or Councillors, in all matters which affected the housing position in each individual parish. This Housing Committee has surveyed, with the Councillor representing the parish, each parish in the District to decide the most suitable housing sites. To date they have acquired sites in 15 of our 20 parishes. They are familiar also

with the various alternative sites in the remaining 5 parishes, but, as yet, have not acquired them, for here a difference exists in the policy of the Council and that of Town and Country Planning doctrine. The Council have thoroughly considered the advisability of confining the building of new houses to the larger centres of community and of aggregating houses within a radius of up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the tenant's place of work. Whilst the Council realises that such a policy, which is a criterion of the Town and Country Planning doctrine, would foster the community spirit, ensure proximity to various amenities, such as shops, schools, churches, village halls, telephones, etc., and probably more readily allow provision of piped water and sewage services, the Council are unanimously resolved that, in their particular District, the better policy is to build in each parish. They believe that electricity and water services must come for agricultural purposes to all parts of the District and that the provision of modern sanitation is not impossible even in the smallest village. They know that their policy will entail the transport of young children to schools at a distance, but are satisfied that this phase of an individual's life is short in comparison with the working portion and the remainder of life. They know that thereby the housewife's shopping expeditions will be limited to about one a week, but are aware that in our District the many tradesmen's vans and roundsmen cater for the outlying smaller parishes. As even in the medium sized parishes, a mother is to be deprived of her school children at lunch time, (being recipients of lunch at some distant school) the Council, in the medium and smaller villages, are not in favour of home life being further depleted by the absence of the husband at lunch time each working day. There are, therefore, many pros and cons, but the Councillors, who, during the course of the Housing Survey, have had ample opportunities to admire the fortitude, resource and cheerfulness of the country housewives, will not readily be shaken from their resolve to alleviate, as far as possible, the every day loneliness which would result for these ladies if the doctrinal view was adopted.

Until the Council's policy in this respect is adopted building in the smaller parishes will languish, for although there are, in these smaller parishes, many employers of labour willing and anxious, where the Council are prevented, to build suitable houses for their employees, licenses to build private houses are not available if the houses are to cost more than £1,200 each. In these somewhat outlying parishes a contractor cannot build at such a figure - not actually.

The prompt planning and early activity of the Council has gone far towards implementing their desire, as expressed in my previous Annual Report, to provide in the first year 64 new council houses and to erect the 8 Swedish permanent timber houses allotted to them. Ten new permanent houses are already occupied - the tenants of the first four were handed their keys during the first week of June 1946. In addition to these 10 houses (occupied four each at Elmswell and Badwell Ash and two at Woolpit), the 8 Swedish houses are in course of erection at Woolpit and builders are at work to complete a further 42 permanent traditional houses (eight each at Felsham, Drinkstone and Rickingham, sixteen at Elmswell and two at Woolpit). Tenders have been accepted for a further 14 houses (twelve at Thurston and two at Beyton) which the builders will shortly commence.

The Council does not find it easy to reconcile the ease of approval of the cost of Temporary Houses or of Airey Houses with the delay experienced when tenders for traditional permanent houses are a few pounds above official expectations. Temporary houses have been approved in other Districts at prices some hundreds of pounds each in excess of the figure obtained in this District for permanent

traditional houses which, in the Council's opinion, are far more desirable than the Temporary Houses - Airey Houses, costing more than traditional permanent houses, have been offered with the statement not to worry about the cost as the Exchequer grants will be made up to such a level that they will be no more costly to the inhabitants - yet tenders for permanent traditional houses had approval delayed whilst attempts were made to whittle them down a few pounds by such suggestions as omitting a course or two of bricks, (even if this made the height of living rooms less than Bye-law standards), by omitting roof felting or electrical wiring, (to be inserted at a later date at much increased cost and with damage to the structure) or by such paper adjustments as reducing the amount allowed for contingencies (to a figure which everybody was agreed would be inadequate) or by transferring the cost of drainage and cesspools to another account.

283 houses, representing 11% of the total number of houses in the District, are, in the Council's opinion, suitable for and require reconditioning. As a government general policy it was probably wise to suspend for the time being grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, thereby attempting to ensure that all available labour and materials went to the production of new houses and also that the number of "tied cottages" was reduced to a minimum. In particular cases these results are not obtained, neither is the production of "tied cottages" likely to result.

There are in Thedwastre, as indicated in my previous Report, some builders carrying on practically a one man business. They are not the type of builder who will erect new houses, but they are, in many cases, eminently suitable and experienced in the reconditioning of the picturesque and antique lath and plaster houses which are deemed suitable to be modified or increased to adjust them to modern standards. Because lack of grants has stopped reconditioning work these men have not decided to close up their businesses, to seek lodgings near some building site and act as brick layers. They are managing to employ themselves on jobbing repair work. This jobbing work is officially restricted, without the issue of a Civil Builder's License, to works costing not more than £10 per house. The number of Civil Building Licenses issued in 1945 was 113.

CIVIL BUILDING LICENSES ISSUED.

	<u>£10 to £100.</u>	<u>Over £100.</u>
Privately Owned Working Class Houses (Repairs, etc.)	33	-
Private Residences	28	2
Public Houses	3	-
Farm Houses	24	-
Farm Buildings	20	-
New Houses	-	3
	<u>108</u>	<u>5</u>

Doubtless the high desirability of effecting reconditioning to working class houses, before time renders them beyond repair, is thoroughly appreciated, but perhaps a special plea might be made for the reintroduction of grants to allow such reconditioning to be effected in rural areas by these smaller builders at an early date especially for owner-occupiers of working class houses.

Thedwastre's 283 houses deemed fit for Reconditioning are owned by:-

Owner Occupiers (Usually Agricultural Workers)	86	31%
Non-Employers of Agricultural Workers	136	48%
Employers of Agricultural Workers		
(a) House near parish amenities	29	10%
(b) House isolated except from place of work	32	11%
Only these latter 61 houses 21% would become truly "Tied Cottages" and only 32 of these, that is 11% have the objection of isolation.		

The dwastre has never been unduly deterred by the financial factor when the health of the people has been involved as is illustrated by the fact that their first council houses were built prior to any Government giving a grant for the provision of houses. Appreciation is due, nevertheless, to the present Council for the magnitude of the financial implications to which they are committing themselves.

The product of a penny rate in The dwastre is £111.

The Housing (Financial Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1946 has fixed the Rural District Councils' rate contribution for each new house at 30/- per annum for 60 years if the house is for an agricultural worker and at 110/- per annum for 60 years if the house is for other than an agricultural worker. These contributions, it is estimated, will, with the other grants available, make the economic rents, exclusive of rates, 8/6d. per week for agricultural workers and 12/6d. per week for others.

Assuming approximately 80% of the new houses to be for agricultural workers the Council's Immediate Housing Requirements (476 houses) represents a 10d. rate, whilst the Ten Year Programme (600 houses) represents a 1/- rate, both rates being somewhat reduced by the increase in rateable value which will result.

The capital cost of the The dwastre portion of the proposed Comprehensive Water Scheme at present day prices is estimated at £150,000, which represents, in repayment and interest, a District rate of 5/4d. for 30 years to which must be added the cost of non-trunk distribution mains and of the water supplied at about 8d. per 1,000 gallons - and from which there will be a deduction consequent on Exchequer grant. It is certainly to be hoped that the Exchequer Grant will be sufficiently generous to make this deduction substantial. The provisional estimate for the sewers and sewage disposal works of one of our twenty parishes, Walsham-le-Willows is some £30,000.

The importance and urgency of the housing problem is apparent - it is vital to agriculture and therefore vital to the whole country - it will, however, take some years to resolve.

Consideration, therefore, of the desirability and possibility of diverting some, or of employing additional, labour and materials for the provision of comprehensive water and sewage services in rural areas must be a constantly recurring regard.

The Council is particularly anxious to avoid, as far as possible, expenditure at council house sites on water bores and cesspools which will be scrapped and thereby largely wasted as comprehensive schemes come into being.

The Council however, are resolved that, even if some financial waste appears likely to arise in this connection, it will not deter them in their endeavours to provide as soon as possible satisfactory housing accommodation for all the inhabitants of The dwastre.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) MILK SUPPLY. The number of Registered Cowkeepers and Retail Purveyors of milk is 122. 49 visits were paid to cowsheds and dairies.

Local Authorities interest and progress in this work is still hindered by the intention to transfer these functions to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

- (b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. The St. Edmundsbury Co-operative Bacon Factory at Elmswell is the only licensed slaughter house regularly in use within the District. During the year 324 visits were made and the 61,110 pigs slaughtered all inspected. The meat condemned and cause of condemnation is indicated on the following page.

	Number Condemned.	Percentage.	Approximate Weight.
			lbs.
Carcases	179	0.29	23,054
Heads	3,073	5.0	43,026
Plucks	1,308	2.1	9,153
Intestines	1,566	2.6	
Kidneys	4,643	3.8	1,161
			<u>76,394</u>

Tuberculosis	123
Peritonitis	2
Moribund	36
Fevered	9
Jaundiced	3
Septicaemia	5
Malignant Oedema	1

(c) ADULTERATION ETC.

(d) CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

} No change.

(e) NUTRITION. Rationing has existed long enough to produce some effects on nutrition. People are feeling hungry and depressed. Whilst the goal of victory was still to attain, persons tolerated shortage of food much better than they are now doing. The shortage, the lack of variety and the constant scheming to present meals in an original and appetising form is exhausting housewives. Mothers, as is the general custom, are going shorter in order to augment the rations of their children and husbands - depleted wardrobes aggravate the position, in winter by lack of warmth, (to which also coal rationing can be related) and during the remainder of the year by drabness which detracts from cheerfulness even in the queues.

Members released from H.M. Forces have noticed the difference in their amount of rations - many feel that this shortage prevents them from a satisfactory work output - "On these rations it takes a good man to keep filling up a concrete mixer to make it work to its maximum capacity and create roadways on council housing sites." The persons most effected appear to be the old people living alone or as couples - for catering is more difficult where there are not several ration books in the home - such persons have not had a reasonable roast joint for a very long time.

There is appreciation of the need for rationing and of the Government efforts, especially those for the welfare of children, but the Peace will not appear won until rationing can be removed without giving place to unrestricted rises in the price of foodstuffs.

(f) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan)

(g) WATER CRESS.

} No change.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The table on the following page shows the number of Infectious Diseases among the civilian population during the year after corrections subsequently made either by the Notifying Medical Practitioner or by the Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital.

ALL NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING 1945.

	Total Cases Notified.	Age in years.													Adm. to Hosp.	Deaths.
		-1	1	2	3	4	5	6 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 19	20 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over		
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	78	1	4	5	2	4	10	35	14	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	28	-	7	10	1	-	2	3	1	2	2	-	-	-	14	-
Whooping Cough	40	2	3	6	1	4	6	14	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	150	3	13	21	4	8	18	52	19	5	5	1	1	-	14	4
Infective Jaundice	3	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The following table allows comparison with the nine previous years:-

Year.	Total Cases.	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles +	Whooping Cough.
1936.	2+	-	-	-	-	1	1	+	+
1937.	15+	-	-	-	4	-	12	+	+
1938.	4+	-	-	-	1	1	2	+	+
1939.	31+	-	2	-	1	-	5	+	23+
1940.	125	-	-	1	2	-	71	34	17
1941.	413	-	2	-	3	-	23	259	126
1942.	98	-	-	-	1	-	34	7	56
1943.	100	-	1	-	-	-	9	71	19
1944.	96	1	1	-	3	-	28	14	49
1945.	150	-	-	1	2	1	28	78	44
Totals.	1034+	1	6	2	17	3	212	463+	330+

+ Measles and Whooping Cough were not made notifiable until October 1939

119 children (101 age 0-4 years and 18 age 5-14 years) completed Diphtheria Immunisation during 1945. At the year end it was estimated that 47% of children under 5 years of age and 90% of children between 5 and 15 years of age had completed the Diphtheria Immunisation Course.

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

New Cases.

Deaths.

Years.	Respiratory.				Non-Respiratory.				Respiratory.				Non-Respiratory.			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
15-24	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55-64	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	6	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

23 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1945, Respiratory Male 7, Female 9, and Non-Respiratory Male 4, Female 3.

